

At a meeting of the freeholders . Boston . the 26th of July, Anno Domini 1774.

1685

At a meeting of the freeholders and other inhabitants of the town of Boston, duly qualified and legally warned, in public town meeting, assembled at Faneull-hall, on Tuesday the 26th day of July, Anno Domini 1774, at 10 o'clock forenoon.

Voted, THAT a printed copy of the following letter to our brethren in the several towns and districts in the province be forthwith signed by the Town-Clerk, and transmitted by the Committee of Correspondence in the name and behalf of this town.)

Attest.

William Cooper Town Clerk

Friends and Brethren,

OUR public calamities have for a series of years been increasing both in number and weight. We have endeavoured under all our public misfortunes to conduct as good citizens in a COMMON CAUSE. Being stationed by providence in the front rank of the conflict, it hath been our aim to behave with vigilance, activity and firmness. To warn our brethren of approaching danger, to encounter with becoming spirit the trials of our patience, hath been our aim and our duty. Our friends and generous countrymen have given us reason to think we have not altogether failed in our honest endeavors in the way of this duty.

Two acts of parliament, altering the course of justice, and annihilating our once free constitution of government, are every day expected.

When we consider the conduct of our late worthy house of representatives, relative to our superior court Judges, and their impeachment of the Honorable Peter Oliver, Esq; for his accepting a salary from the crown in his office of Chief Justice; and when we consider the uniform spirit and conduct of the several Grand Jurors through the province, touching the same grievance, since that impeachment; we cannot but suppose the aforementioned acts will bring on a most important and decisive trial.

You, gentlemen, our friends, countrymen and benefactors, may possibly look towards us at this great crisis. We trust that we shall not be left of Heaven to do any thing derogatory to our common

liberties, unworthy the same of our ancestors, or inconsistent with our former professions and conduct.

Though surrounded with a large body of armed men (who, having the sword, have also our blood in their hands) we are yet undaunted; we trust in the GOD of our fathers, and we feel the animating support of a good cause; but while suffering a DOUBLE weight of oppression, and exasperated by a military camp in the very bowels of our town, our minds are not more in a temper to DELIBERATE, than our bodies in a situation to MOVE, as the perils and exigencies of the times may probably demand.

To you, gentleman, our brethren and dear companions *in the cause of GOD and our country*, we apply; from you we have *received that countenance and aid*, which have strengthened our hands, *and that bounty which hath occasioned smiles on the face distress*: To you, therefore, we look for that *wisdom, advice* and EXAMPLE, which, giving strength to our understanding, and vigor to our actions, shall, with the blessing of GOD, save us from destruction.

Looking up to Heaven, and, under divine direction, to our brethren in the country and on the continent, for aid and support, and with earnest prayers for a happy issue out of our great troubles, We are, Your

Friends and Brethren, The INHABITANTS of BOSTON.

Boston - E5-13160

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By order of the Town, William Cooper Town Clerk

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To The Town Clerk of Southborough

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